GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2390
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2006
IMPORT OF WHEELS
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal to import wheels;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) The steps taken by the Railways to produce wheels indigenously?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The total annual requirement of wheels of Indian Railways is approximately 2,40,000 Nos. The manufacturing capacity of the two indigenous sources i.e. Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore and Steel Authority of India Limited (Durgapur Steel Plant) put together is about 2,00,000 wheels.Only shortfall quantity of wheels which is around 40,000 Nos. is being imported. Wheels for high horse power locomotives and high speed coaches etc. for which requirements being small, are also imported since economies of scale do not permit indigenous production. The reasons for import of wheels are therefore shortage of capacity and requirement of special type of wheels.

(c) A new wheel manufacturing factory in Chhapra, Bihar, has also been sanctioned and the project is planned to be completed by January 2010. This shall supplement the production capacity available in the country from Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore and Durgapur Steel Plant. Indigenous development of special type of wheels has also been taken up and such production will be concurrent with the growth in volumes.